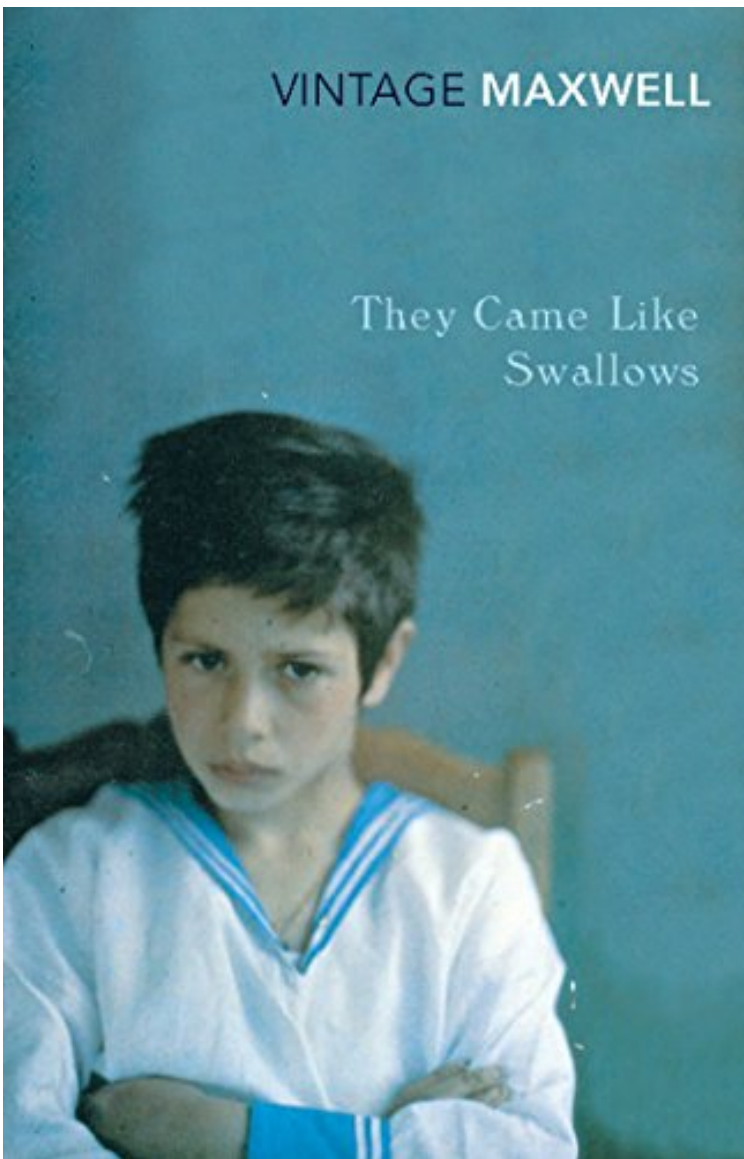


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They Came Like Swallows



Par William Maxwell
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Par William Maxwell : They Came Like Swallows before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Came Like Swallows:

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Description : Description du produithrough the eyes of two boys and their father, William Maxwell reveals the complex woman who is the unacknowledged source of their happiness--and whose death during the influenza epic of 1918 will devastate them all. They Came Like Swallows tenderly depicts the currents of love and need that run through every family--and whose true depth becomes evident only in moments of tragedy.

Prsentation de l'diteurElizabeth Morison is an ordinary woman. Yet to eight-year-old Bunny, his mother is the centre of his universe. To his older brother, Robert, she is someone he must protect against the dangers of the outside world. And to James Morison, his wife is the foundation on which his family rests and life without her is unimaginable.William Maxwell's unique and moving family portrait confirms his reputation

as one of the twentieth century's finest novelists..comIn the Morison house the important goes unsaid and indirection is the operative mode--conversation stops where it should start and key terms such as fear, pain, pregnancy, fail to be addressed. The younger son, an eight-year-old, passes his days deciphering adults' inaccessible discussions. "In this fashion they communicated with each other, out of knowledge and experience inaccessible to Bunny. By nods and silences. By a tired curve of his mother's mouth. By his father's measuring glance over the top of his spectacles." Bunny's older brother would rather escape to the outside world, and their father finds declaiming the day's headlines--World War I's end and the onslaught of Spanish Influenza--far preferable to engagement. Only Elizabeth, their mother, is capable of holding the family together. The fifth main character in *They Came Like Swallows* is the house itself. Maxwell expresses the boys' reactions through this labile, interior landscape. Bunny finds the dining room can be "braced and ready for excitement"; later his brother realizes "for the first time how still the house was, how full of waiting, ... tense and expectant." Though war never makes it to Illinois, the flu changes all. First Bunny is stricken, and once he recovers Elizabeth, pregnant, dies from it. In quiet, piercing prose, William Maxwell's second novel, originally published in 1937, evokes the greatest of losses and the terrors of imagination. *Revue de presse* "A story of such engaging warmth that it would thaw the heart of any critic... will melt many a reader to tears." - *Times* "A heart-warming tale, the book bears witness to William Maxwell's genuine artistry." - *Christian Science Monitor* "Rare...exquisite...a cameo-like perfection." - *The New York Herald Tribune* "A sensitive, wistful reminiscence... very delightful." - V.S. Pritchett